FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 OCTOBER 1985

### Jordan-PLO Talks

King Husayn explained during a meeting in Amman with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat the Kingdom's recent political efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, a Jordanian official spokesman cited by Amman radio disclosed. The spokesman said they reviewed recent developments and assessed them in an "objective" manner, in addition to examining their effects on the Jordanian-Palestinian move and "ways to eliminate these effects and avoid the recurrence of similar developments in the future." In a statement to INA, 'Arafat said the talks were "positive" and conducted in an atmosphere of "brotherhood and cordiality."

### Israel

Facing demands by Likud ministers to provide clarifications concerning his peace initiative, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in a speech to the Knesset broadcast by Jerusalem radio said he stood "behind every word" of his UN address. Noting that a "dynamic situation" has been created in the Middle East, Peres called on King Husayn to continue working with Israel "so as not to miss the opportunity that has been created." The prime minister stressed that Israel will "listen attentively to every Jordanian proposal" and will open negotiations without preconditions. Following Peres' political statement to the Knesset, a Tehiya Party member subitted a no-confidence motion against the government, giving as reasons the "essence" and "timing" of Peres' political initiative, Jerusalem radio reported. The motion was defeated by a vote of 86-6, the radio later announced, adding that the Likud ministers who demanded clarifications ended up supporting Peres' statement.

In another development, *HA'ARETZ* disclosed that a plan for Israeli-Jordanian joint authority over the West Bank has been formulated in recent months by the Prime Minister's Office. The plan stipulates that West Bank residents would be given autonomy under joint Israeli-Jordanian rule.

### Syria

Syria will resist "with all means" any Arab dealings with Israel outside the pan-Arab framework, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said in remarks reported by Damascus radio.

### Lebanon

Lebanese Ba'th Party Secretary General 'Asim Qansuh announced that the party has withdrawn its militiamen from Beirut's demarcation line 29 October, Beirut radio reported. Qansuh said at a press conference cited by Beirut radio that the move is part of the "political solution," and he urged other militias to follow his example. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syria released 31 Lebanese Forces detainees, demonstrating the "credibility of relations" between the Lebanese Forces and Syria. In another development, former President Camille Sham'un in remarks carried by Voice of Lebanon expressed approval for the Damascus peace accord.

Sources cited by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* claimed that the three kidnapped Soviet Embassy officials were killed during their first week of captivity. Lebanese media have not been observed to report that they have been executed.

### Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided the Ilam radio and television stations and their transmitters 29 October, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced.

As for land battles, an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA reported more than 130 Iraqi casualties during Iran's recent "limited offensive" in Marivan. In another report, the agency said an Iraqi attempt to retake outposts in the Hawr al-Huwayzah region was crushed.

### Iran

The Majlis approved 22 members of the Cabinet but refused to give the necessary 130 votes for the proposed minister of economy and finance and minister of mines and metals, IRNA announced. The Majlis speaker expressed the hope that the prime minister and president will nominate two new candidates for the ministries, and he added that negative votes should not be used as "political tools" against any of the candidates.

### Algeria

Algerian authorities forced a Libyan civilian airliner to land when it entered Algerian airspace 26 October, according to sources quoted by a Moroccan opposition daily cited by MAP.

### Afghanistan

A BAKHTAR statement broadcast by Kabul radio condemned President Ronald Reagan's "hypocritical and deceptive" remarks during his speech to the UN General Assembly, adding that the United States in collusion with Pakistan and Afghan "criminal counterrevolutionary bands" expands "undeclared war" and "murder" in the DRA every day.

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**BAKHTAR Statement Condemns Reagan's UN Speech**
*LD281919 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Statement by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, 28 October 1985]

[Text] The President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan, in his statement to the UN General Assembly meeting devoted to that organization's 40th anniversary celebrations, once again affirmed that the U.S. administration's foreign policy is based on aggression, force, and a lunatic hard line on the arms race and its extension to outer space.

Ronald Reagan's statements — which were not only against the DRA, the USSR, and other socialist countries and progressive states in the world, but also contained hostile attacks on the United Nations — greatly disturbed the international community and thus provoked the hatred and indignation of all progressive and peace-loving states in the world as well as the close allies of the United states.

The U.S. President used this great international forum to reveal his political ill intentions regarding those necessary and very immediate questions, which are on the present daily agenda of the human community; that is, international peace and security, disarmament, and the elimination of the danger of catastrophic nuclear war. Instead of disarmament on our planet and the vital issues of preventing the extension of weapons to outer space, which have been reflected in the constructive Soviet proposals, his speech has deliberately diverted fundamental attention to other irrelevant issues.

In an attempt to justify the undeclared wars of imperialism and reaction aimed at crushing the struggle of peoples for freedom and progress and realizing general hatred against Washington's state policy of terrorism in various parts of the world, the U.S. President presented a so-called plan to solve regional conflicts in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Distorting realities in the DRA, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Angola, and Ethiopia, he attempted to conceal from public opinion his overt interferences in the internal affairs of independent and sovereign countries.

In a hypocritical and deceptive manner, Reagan made utterences on the so-called interference of the USSR and other socialist countries in various parts of the world whereas his administration, in collusion with ruling generals in Pakistan and using Afghan criminal counterrevolutionary bands, (?administers), finances, and instigates undeclared war, murder, and bloodshed, and expands it every day.

It is the U.S. Government which, along with the racist regime of South Africa, pursues the policy of military aggression against Angola as well as following the policy of continued colonial oppression in Namibia. It is Washington which finances and arms the murderous Pol Pot bands against Cambodia; and the Somoza murderers against independent and revolutionary Nicaragua.

It is hidden from no one that the regional conflicts which the U.S. President spoke of are the creation of the aggressive and interventionist policy of that country's government. The way to solve these conflicts is clear and easy: Washington should put an end to its policy of aggression and interference. In that case, there will be no place left for slander, deception, falsehood, and fabrications made by the leader of the U.S. Government concerning so-called Soviet interference in regional conflicts.

However, as has been clearly stated by political observers and some international mass media, including that of the United States itself, the main aim of these groundless designs, is to divert world public attention from the constructive and realistic Soviet proposals concerning disarmament and their limitation [as heard] which were reflected in the message which M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, addressed to participants celebrating the 40th anniversary of the United Nations.

Ronald Reagan also spoke about the Afghan counterrevolutionary terrorist and murderous bands, and about the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's limited military contingents from Afghanistan. In this regard, we should say — as it has been openly stated in a recent interview by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, with the pakistani paper *THE MUSLIM* — the counterrevolutionary elements and bands whose hands are stained with the blood of our women, children, and innocent people and have been rejected and condemned forever by our people no longer have a place in Afghanistan. Babrak Karmal also stated in connection with the (withdrawal) of the limited Soviet contingents that whenever foreign interference and aggression ceases against the DRA and reliable international guarantees are given of their nonrecurrence in the future, and Pakistan makes it possible for the refugees to return to their true homeland, then the limited Soviet military contingents, which were invited to Afghanistan in accordance with the Treaty of Cooperation, Friendship, and Good-neighborliness between the two countries and on the basis of the UN Charter, will return to their peace-loving country.

Thus, while the DRA people and government strongly condemn the recent statements by U.S. President Ronald Reagan concerning the DRA and consider them an open and (?intolerable) interference in its internal affairs, it declares that military interferences and aggression by international imperialism and their propaganda against the DRA, no matter how hostile and broad they are, cannot deviate our people from the path they have chosen. Now, our people, government, and armed forces, with the help of their international friends, are capable of eliminating every kind of interference and of foiling every foul design by the enemies of the April Revolution.

**Understanding Reached on Mizo Laying Down Arms**
*BK281608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] The Mizo National Front [MNF] leader, Mr Laldenga, had a meeting with the union home secretary, Mr R.D. Pradhan, in New Delhi today. They were together for about 90 minutes. Agency reports quoted Mr Laldenga [as] saying that an understanding was reached at today's meeting for the modalities on laying down arms by the Mizo insurgents. Mr Laldenga is reported to have said that a draft would be prepared on the modalities for laying down of arms by the MNF insurgents. This would be finalized at his next meeting with Mr Pradhan.

**AFP: Sikhs To Protest on Gandhi Death Anniversary**
*HK290836 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 29 (AFP) — As India prepares to mark the anniversary of Indira Gandhi's assassination on Thursday, some 5,000 Sikh militants are greating for a protest march to mourn the death of one of her killers. Authorities have asked for standby forces on top of already-tight security in the Punjab as militants ready their answer to memorials for the slain prime minister expected to draw a million people in New Delhi. About 5,000 members of the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), one of the spearheads of the often-violent drive for Punjab autonomy, will march from this Sikh holy city to the state capital of Chandigarh. The 300 kilometre (188 mile) trek is ostensibly to demand the release of about 8,000 Sikh prisoners, including some facing murder charges, and amnesty for Sikhs who deserted the Indian Army last year. But AISSF officials said the real purpose was to observe the anniversary of the death of Beant Singh, one of Mrs. Gandhi's bodyguards who gunned her down outside her home in the capital. The killer's widow will lead the procession.

AISSF leaders said the newly elected Punjab government formed by the moderate Sikh party Akali Dal had considered banning the march but held off at the last moment after militants threatened a statewide strike in retaliation.

R.K. Ohri, police inspector general in Chandigarh where the march is to end on Firday, said about 1,600 paramilitary personnel and 2,500 state troopers were already patrolling the state capital. The federal government has also been asked to keep more troops in readiness in case of trouble in the violence-plagued northern farming state during the march, officials said. Paramilitary riot police have been permanently deployed in Beant Singh's home village of Mullaya, outside Chandigarh, as well near Amritsar's Golden Temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine and a home base for militants.

Informed sources said that while the Punjab government had decided Saturday to release 309 prisoners, they were not likely to be freed until after the march ends on Friday. This reportedly has frustrated the AISSF, which hoped to fill its march with "martyrs," including relatives of those killed in the Indian Army assault on the Golden Temple in June to flush out militants.

The AISSF's firebrand leader, Harminder Singh Kahlon, promised a peaceful rally and said that if the India's majority Hindus had the right to mourn the death of Mrs. Gandhi, Sikhs could do the same for Beant Singh. "Sikhs are no more afraid of a Hindu backlash," he said, referring to the anti-Sikh riots triggered by the Gandhi assassination that left more than 2,900 people dead.

The AISSF, until recently banned, has announced a recruitment drive among Sikh youths and aims to raise its membership from 50,000 to 125,000 by the end of the year.

Highly placed souces in Chandigarh said the decision to defer the release of Sikh prisoners, from among the 4,000 currently in custody, was prompted by reports that the Golden Temple was again becoming the hotbed of militancy. A number of wanted criminals reportedly have again taken refuge in the temple, sources said. Police sources said that a prime suspect in the murden of Akali Dal chief Harchand Singh Longowal may be hiding in the temple with six others, but AISSF leaders disputed this. Mr. Kahlon denied that AISSF hitmen were again becoming active, adding "we are not terrorists. We do not believe in terrorism as our religion is against it. But those who will give us a blow will also receive one from us." He denied the existence of the ultra-militant group called the "Safron Tigers," but said that a number of factions were still involved in terrorism.

Sources said that a factional fight was looming within the AISSF, which is trying to regroup itself behind the issues of freedom for arrested Sikhs and amnesty for army deserters. It is also trying to open clandestine offices in Delhi and other cities to woo Sikh youths away from splinter groups that are slowly and quietly emerging, the sources said.

A tour of sensitive districts in the Punjab showed clearly that Sikh youth were not too happy with the new placid role of the once-strident AISSF. Politicians fear a new resurgence of separatist activity next year. Police officials said that several districts have again become centers of what they call "terrorism aided and abetted by masses."

**Kashmir Police Arrest Subversive 'Gang'**
*BK290355 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested a gang involved in publishing and circulating subversive literature and producing explosives. This was disclosed to newsmen by the state director general of police, Mr M.M. Khajuria, in Srinagar yesterday.

**Paper Speculates on Gandhi's Role as Defense Chief**
*BK241543 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Oct 85 p 6*

[Editorial: "Organising Defence"]

[Text] In the recent Cabinet reshuffle, the Prime Minister dropped direct charge of the Ministry of External Affairs to take over the Defence portfolio instead with Mr Arun Singh as his principal

aide, though carrying the more limited designation of Minister of State for Defence R&D. Why? It must be hoped that Defence has not come to occupy a more significant role than diplomacy in Mr Gandhi's mind. It could be that as Prime Minister he will anyway continue to guide foreign policy and would like to get a firmer grip on Defence. Again, why? Various reasons suggest themselves. With his zest for modernisation and management techniques, Mr Gandhi wants to preside over a technological transformation of the defence establishment as a number of highly sophisticated technological thrusts are getting under way or are under consideration. He has expressed great concern over Pakistan's nuclear programme and has kept open India's options should Islamabad cross the nuclear threshold. In this unhappy eventuality, nuclear-missile development will move into the realm of military doctrine and defence management. Orchestrating all this technological development will call for constant political monitoring and decision-making at the highest level. Otherwise too a large infusion of systems management techniques into Defence would seem to be in order. The mysteries of the Defence Ministry have yet to be fathomed but it is possible to suspect a good deal of old-fashioned clutter that could do with review and change.

The induction of higher levels of technology, and the shorter reaction-times they increasingly allow, inevitably dictate the need for reorganisation of the higher defence command, communication and control structure. Addressing the Naval Commanders' Conference in Delhi last Thursday, the Prime Minister himself spoke of the need to promote joint inter-Service operations under a unified command. Incidentally, this would appear to be the first time that the other two Service Chiefs were present at the annual Commanders' Conference of any one Service. Inter-Service co-ordination needs to be strengthened. The case for a Chief of Defence Staff has been made often enough but inter-Service co-ordination must equally be strengthened at the level of Army, Navy and Air Force Commands and even lower down. The Foreign Affairs-Defence interface is obviously inadequate at present and a National Security Council serviced by a policy planning group would seem more suited to the times. The question as to whether India can afford to continue with an ageing long-service Army on both strategic and economic considerations can no longer be ignored. Defence needs a close look and review in terms of structure, management, systems and integrated security perceptions as the country moves towards the turn of the century. The Prime Minister's taking charge of Defence perhaps has something to do with such perspectives in the context of regional cooperation and the good-neighbour policy that he espouses. However, whatever the context, diplomacy must remain the country's first defence.

**Radio on Unacceptability of Nonproliferation Treaty**

*BK271459 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 27 Oct 85*

[Commentary by K.S. Ramamurty, political commentator on "India and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"]

[Text] After assuming power about a year ago, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, lost no time in reiterating India's position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT for short. The nuclear haves, notably the United Nations [as heard], were most interested in finding out if the change in the regime in Delhi would bring about a change in India's approach to the treaty. In a number of interviews to foreign newspapermen, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has left no one in doubt that India's policy in this regard remained unchanged.

India has been remarkably consistent in its stand on the NPT. Essentially the stand is simple. India is as much opposed to nuclear weapon proliferation as the nuclear weapon powers themselves. But the NPT will not be acceptable because it is mainly designed as a political weapon to divide the nations of the world into nuclear have and nuclear have-not. NPT failed to make vertical proliferation illegal. Vertical proliferation means the continued and unchecked strengthening of the nuclear arsenals for the nuclear weapon states. NPT is preoccupied with the future proliferation by nonnuclear weapon states. The NPT confers all the benefits on a nuclear weapon power and all the burden on the nonnuclear weapon states. It legitimizes all the nuclear weapons so far produced and still continuing to be produced by the nuclear haves. The nuclear have-not are denied the right for nuclear option. Apart from the patent injustice in the arrangement, it also contravenes the UN General Assembly resolution of November 1965 which states that the treaty should embody an an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations of the nuclear and nonnuclear powers.

The NPT not only legalized the military inequality between the nuclear and nonnuclelar powers but also legitimized the technological inequality. This is evident from various articles of the treaty dealing with safeguards and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. It is obviously invidious to expect a greater part of the world to be dependent on a few nuclear weapon states for the knowledge and application of nuclear technology. This discrimination is what the article dealing with safeguard perpetrates. This article is meant only for the nonnuclear nations. It obliges them to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards to prevent diversion of fissionable material from peaceful to military uses. The developing nations have insisted that it is the inalienable right of the nonnuclear nations to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Under legislation passed by the U.S. Senate in February 1978, the United States would seek to extend what are called full scope safeguards not only to the reactors it may have supplied to any nation but also to all peaceful nuclear activities in that nation.

India is second to none in the sincerity of its quest for total disarmament, but the NPT in its present form would mean her technological bondage. This is what India has been trying consistently to stress in all the discussions on the nuclear nonproliferation treaty ever since she rejected it in 1968.

**Ziaul Haq On Soviets in Afghanistan, Nuclear Program**
*BK281537 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed confidence that the Afghanistan issue will top the the agenda list of negotiations between the U.S. and Soviet leaders in Geneva next month. In an interview with the American television organization Cable News Network, he said if an understanding is reached between the leaders of two superpowers in this connection, then a solution could emerge to this complicated issue. Answering a question as to whether in his view there is any possibility of Soviet forces withdrawing from Afghanistan, the president said he is by nature used to seeing the bright side of things. Although there are enough indications that the Soviet Union will remain in Afghanistan and that it is trying to strengthen its position there, it is also on record that the Soviet Union wants to leave Afghanistan. He said we should believe them and investigate what action we could take in connection with their return [home].

Answering another question, the president said he has been successful in convincing Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that India and Pakistan should solve the nuclear issue on a regional basis. He reiterated that Pakistan is not implementing any program under which nuclear energy could be used for military purposes. He said our program is intended only for peaceful purposes.

Answering a question, the president described U.S. Senator Cranston's allegations that Pakistan is making an atomic bomb with Chinese help as wrong. He emphasized that Pakistan's atomic program is solely domestic and peaceful.

About the internal situation, the president said elections have been held in the country and an elected government has been set up. However, he added, the slight difference is that it is a nonparty system.

The president was introduced in the program as an important and prominent leader of the Islamic world and hosts of the program commended his answers, especially his presentation on Afghanistan.

**Constitution Amendment Bill Introduced in Senate**
*BK290235 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Excerpt] The Senate tonight began consideration of the Constitution Eighth Amendment Bill as passed by the National Assembly. Initiating the debate, the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, said doubts about the powers of the president and the prime minister, the appointment of the prime minister as well as matters relating to provincial autonomy have been resolved in the bill now before the Senate. He said the bill is not the last word, and amendments will continue to be made by the coming generation according to the needs of the time. Even the present Parliament was fully empowered to bring about more constitutional amendments. He said the main question in the bill was the balance of power between the president and the prime minister. In the 1973 constitution, there were no powers for the president, which resulted in the 1977 crisis. He said if the president had some powers, the country could have been saved from the imposition of martial law.

He said as far as provincial autonomy was concerned, the chapter or any article concerning the subject had not been touched under the amending bill or the Revival of the Constitution Order. He said it had also been provided that after 1990, elections would be held on a political parties basis and the prime minister would be the leader of the majority party. As far as the provinces were concerned, this provision would be applicable from March 1988 in case the office of the chief minister fell vancant.

Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan expressed his confidence that with the passage of the bill the country would revert to the democratic era, and through parliamentary accountability, a proper democratic system would emerge which would help solve the problems of the people. He said the Parliament would also be able to further the cause of Islamization and the correct Islamic system of government would be established. He said the House would adopt the bill through consensus as it was adopted by the National Assembly.

**Nine Refugees Killed in Afghan Shelling**
*BK281539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1513 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] The Karmal regime's forces fired three rounds of artillery shells yesterday that fell near Teri Mangal in the Kurram Agency. As a result, nine Afghan refugees were killed and three others wounded. The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him on this unprovoked attack. He was asked to tell his administration that if such attacks are not stopped, then the responsibility for the serious consequences would rest entirely with the Kabul regime.

## SRI LANKA

### Ceasefire Monitoring Committee Visits Trincomalee

*HK280901 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 28 Oct*

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (AFP) — A bomb exploded harmlessly Saturday near members of a multi-racial ceasefire monitoring commttee investigating ethnic violence in Sri Lanka's northeastern Trincomalee District, committee members said today.

They sad unknown persons exploded the bomb about 25 yards (some 23 meters) from the committee members as they spoke to families displaced by the ethnic violence, but that no one was injured.

The committee was set up to monitor a ceasefire between Sri Lankan forces and militant Tamil separatists, a section of whom have been waging a violent campaign for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the country.

The committee visited the Trincomalee District for an on-the-spot inquiry into conditions in the area where, according to official figures, there are over 23,000 refugees, nearly half of them majority Sinhalese.

Next Monday, the 11-member multi-racial committee, including two representatives nominated by militant Tamil separatist groups, is to visit Jaffna — the centre of Tamil separatist activity — to investigate complaints of ceasefire violations, informed sources said.

The security forces have submitted 20 claims of ceasefire violations while about the same number of complaints have been made against the forces, a committee source said. But none of the complaints against the security forces have come directly from any of the militant groups which are parties to the second ceasefire which they accepted on October 11, sources said.

Informed sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the committee would investigate a complaint by the Point Pedro Citizens Committee that security personnel shot and wounded four civilians earlier this month, after the ceasefire became effective.

The citizens committee has backed up its complaint with sworn affidavits from the wounded who claim they were shot by the army.

The army in turn has said that armed militants had opened fire at their camp and the soldiers had replied.

The committee would also look into a complaint by security headquarters that militant Tamils violated the ceasefire by attacking a joint police-army camp at the Old Dutch Fort in Jaffna on Thursday night, sources said.

The security forces have claimed that militants used rockets and grenades in the attack.

From Jaffna, the committee is expected to travel to northwestern Mannar District to investigate yet another ceasefire violation complaint.

This involves an incident in which three soldiers died and four others were wounded when a landmine allegedly planted by Tamil separatists blew up their vehicle in Cheddikulam on Wednesday, the sources said.

The monitoring committee met for nearly seven hours yesterday afternoon after visiting Trincomalee to work out procedures regarding their inquires into complaints, the sources said.

### Tamil Group Unilaterally Cancels Ceasefire

*HK290722 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (AFP) — Press reports here today said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had issued a statement in Madras that they were unilaterally cancelling the ceasefire.

It also accused the ceasefire committee of failing to check what it said were day-to-day violations of the ceasefire by government troops, the *SUN* newspaper said.

(The LTTE had warned in a statement issued in India Sunday and referring to the killing of four militants Thursday that "if such violations continued, the LTTE will be forced to reconsider the ceasefire agreement,")

The Indian high commissioner here, J.N. Dixit, told AFP today he had no confirmation of the latest reported statement, but his office would be checking with New Delhi.

Diplomatic sources here told AFP that such a statement would have been timed to coincide with the return from a foreign tour by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has played a major role in trying to bring about a political settlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.

They said that the Indian Government was determined to obtain a resumption of talks between separatist groups and the Colombo government.

"So groups such as the LTTE, which do not want a settlement, are trying to find ways of delaying, if not abandoning discussions," they added.

## Musavi Addresses Majlis 27 October

*LD272134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Oct 85*

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to 27 October Majlis session on his government's plans and policies and on proposed cabinet officials — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the ummah, greetings to our martyr-nurturing ummah, greetings to our dear combatants who are currently defending our independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic in the southern and western fronts of the country, who are safeguarding the values of the Islamic revolution. Greetings to the souls of the martyrs who died along the path of God, the path of the Islamic revolution. All in all, I have 3 hours to explain our programs and, probably, iron out the difficulties that might be raised here in connection with our programs and our brothers, members of the new Cabinet. Therefore, considering that the government's policies and the salient points of the government program, as already mentioned in the internal Majlis regulations, have been given in writing to our brothers and sisters, I believe it is best simply to summarize the highlights of the programs and government's policies with some introduction and some conclusions, and then introduce the new brothers, the new faces who will join the government. The reason for this is to provide the maximum time for debate following the speeches our brothers will make in further explanation and, probably, to remove any ambiguities which might have arisen with regard to our brothers.

As the honorable brothers have noticed, we have tried not to go into details concerning the government's policies and main aspects of its programs. Nevertheless, the fundamental methods, the fundamental lines which can affect the government's decisions have been mentioned. These policies, as mentioned in the pamphlet, include an introduction concerning the activities of the past 4 years, which are outlined in not more than one page. Then there are some problems concerning policy implementation, economic policy, and internal policy. Here, I will read certain passages in view of their importance for the information of the honorable deputies and our dear people.

In the name of god, the compassionate, the merciful: A 4-year period of services rendered by this government has ended. We are now on the threshold of a new era in the activity of the country's executive system. The past 4 years have been eventful; the government, serving the oppressed people, shouldered its responsibilities under difficult conditions. At the time, extensive sectors of our Islamic homeland were occupied by the aggressive forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. Undiluted conspiracies against the Islamic revolution by the arch-satan, the United States, and its pernicious allies in the Western world, had acquired a dangerous dimension. The system had lost dozens of outstanding and competent figures as the result of tragic crimes committed by the lackeys of the superpowers. The servants of global arrogance kept inflicting deep wounds on our society every day. Then, there were the atheistic minigroups in western Azarbeyjan and Kordestan who were challenging everyone. In those days the sick minds of the superpowers were predicting the collapse of the system within a matter of months.

The country was in practice exposed to economic sanction; our GNP was experiencing a downward trend; factories were paralysed; our foreign currency reserves were in the red; the sale of oil had also reached the very minimum; the burden of almost 25 percent inflation was being shouldered by the poor classes of the society; the goods required by society were quite inadequate; the food situation was critical; economic policies were haphazard; our administrative system was shattered; the hezbollahi were isolated by the liberals and our foreign policy was newly born. These were some of the conditions prevailing in the country when this government took over.

Today, 4 years later one may not be able to judge the strong and weak points of the government's operations. However, if the government of the deprived people had any role in changing those conditions into the present situation, it has been achieved through the sincere endeavors of all the responsible members of the government and the committed staff of the executive offices.

In the course of these sincere endeavors, we have felt the blessed hand of God. The generous support by the great leader of the Islamic revolution, from whom the government had the honor of receiving the title of servant of the deprived people; the support by the great Islamic ummah, particularly the faithful multitude of committed society; the guidelines provided by the eminent scholar, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, and the esteemed heads of the three branches, particularly the president and the chief executive; the unreserved support by the revolutionary deputies of the first Majlis as well as the second Majlis, particularly our eminent brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to whom this government has always been indebted under most difficult conditions; the support and cooperation provided by the judicial power, particularly our dear brother, his excellency Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili; the kindness of the dear clerics, particularly the Friday imams throughout the country, as well as the cooperation of other justice-seeking, anti-oppressive and righteous forces following the imam's line, particularly in the holy seminaries and universities, who, by adhering to their imam, paved the ground for the advancement of the government -- all these are considered by the government as manifestations of the same blessed hand.

We, the servants of the nation, feel inadequate to express our gratitude for so much attention, support, kindness, and comradeship; particularly, we feel inadequate to express our gratitude for the fateful support by the imam and the ummah, who, like divine fabulous birds of good omen, have supported the government under the most difficult conditions.

Now, at the end of the first 4 years of this government, I wish to mention and remember the Islamic combatants as teachers of love and devotion, and to recall their powerful arms as a great support for the government in helping it to cross sensitive stages. I like to remember the hard-working and committed staff of the executive branch as unknown soldiers of the revolution; the dear colleagues in the Cabinet, be it those with whom I had the honor of working up to the end of this period or those who shouldered part of the government's heavy burdens during the past 4 years.

At the beginning of this new term, I wish to invite my new and old colleagues to prepare themselves to accept difficulties and to

have patience in the face of difficulties and devote themselves to serving this great nation.

This is an introduction to the government's policy and, as it were, the general principles of the government's program. Within it, there are discussions of the government's policy on the war. There is no doubt that it is the very policy pursued by our revolutionary Majlis at the behest of the great imam. We are behind our dear combatants in their preparation for the war. We believe that even if this war is prolonged for another 20 years, the Islamic Republic system and the government are capable of remaining prepared.

Then, we have a section dealing with our policy implementation. Here, the government's acceptance of responsibility is mentioned. There is another part dealing with the government being answerable to the leader of the revolution and the Majlis. According to Article 134 and the record of debates at the assembly of experts, the Majlis cannot share with other sources its right to question the government. Then, there is the question of faithful forces, forces which constitute a line and an entity and which should be absorbed into the government as a matter of principle. Emphasis has been placed on strengthening Islamic Revolution institutions as the central support for the revolution. There have been discussions about reducing and eliminating bureaucracy; there has been a reference to the law of public accounts. Furthermore, there has been yet another discussion regarding the system of supervision and corruption in government departments.

As for corruption in the departments, while figures prepared by commissions attending to administrative offenses have been submitted to the honourable deputies in a brief form, we have at the same time admitted that in the absence of a bill severely punishing offenders committing bribery and embezzlement we are unable to accomplish anything. This also applies to the judicial system, which hopes that this difficulty will be overcome once the government's request is supported by the Majlis and the Council of guardians.

Then we come to economic policies, embracing 10 parts and including formulation of a medium- and long-term program based on negotiations between the special commission and the plan organization. However, naturally it must be studied by the government in connection with executive organization since the cabinet ministers and the Council of Ministers must express their views on the matter, so as to enable us to submit it to the Majlis.

Another point is the question of self-sufficiency and stabilization of prices which, considering its significance, I shall read to the honorable deputies. Balance of foreign currency in the country is another point. This is one of the achievements of the government; for, over the past 4 years despite all the ups and downs we have faced in acquiring foreign currency through the sale of oil — an issue which was greatly influenced by international policies and global arrogance's onslaught against us — we have managed to control this matter without harming the country's economy and subjecting the country's institutions to the danger of collapse. Needless to say, the country's administrative management, considering the cooperation provided by the Majlis, is today more powerful and better than that in the past.

We then have another issue concerning the GNP growth and a rational share for oil. The fact is that even during the past regime they claimed the GNP was on an upward trend. This upward trend, however, was due to oil. We must correct the composition of the growth of GNP, while allocating a rational share to oil. Obviously, there exists a theory which may not wish to involve oil in this formula; we do not accept this theory. Implementation of budgetary policies in order to increase nonoil revenues and then move towards a just distribution of wealth in favor of the deprived people — this is a clause which I shall read to the honorable deputies.

Point Eight concerns the question of productivity and nine deals with a review of the distribution system. As for 10, it is in connection with the application of the economic foreign policy on the basis of "Neither East nor West".

We have already explained something about these headings. Nevertheless, what I have already noted here will be read here to the honorable deputies. As for the stabilization and control of prices, an important issue, considering the unpleasant traces of inflation for society as well as its upward trend after the Islamic Revolution, the government from the very beginning has kept watch and tried to control the rate of inflation as one of the most important economic objectives. It has, one must say, achieved impressive successes.

By (?correct identification) of the reasons for inflation in Iran through the application of suitable budgetary policies aimed at the gradual reduction of the budget deficit, increasing taxes as well as the implementation of correct monetary policies, such as increasing bank deposits and the continuation of the plan for the just distribution of essential goods, the government succeeded in controlling the rate of growth of cash flow in the private sector, which was the main factor in inflation, so much so that the growth of cash flow, which surpassed 20 percent in 1981, was reduced to 6 percent in 1984.

At this point, I deem it necessary to raise certain points relating to monetary and banking issues as well as the government policies in these fields. The reason I included these particular issues here is due to the fact that in the context of economic issues, little attention has been paid to this dimension of the government's economic activities.

The need for economic stability in any country depends on the stability of monetary and banking fluctuations. Experience has proved that in most countries, absence of economic stability has stemmed from fluctuations in monetary and banking dimensions. As long as governments fail to control the monetary situation, they will be unable to bring about an economic stability and use it as an infrastructure for introducing economic growth.

Experiences among Latin American and African countries regarding the inflation rate have included three-figured sums, possibly up to 1000 percent. This is the situation in the Latin American countries as well as African countries. In these countries, monetary and banking issues are so out of control that they no longer hope for or entertain any idea of economic growth; their only preoccupation is to cope with monetary and banking confusions.

Fortunately, in our country one of the most important fruits has been the trend of monetary and banking fluctuations towards more stability. Existing statistics show that following an increase in oil prices, Iran's economy has been experiencing rapid growth in cash flow and an increase in printing money. The average growth in cash flow from 1976 to 1978 exceeded 30 percent. As for the growth of printing banknotes during the same period, it was about 64 percent. This trend shows that had the Islamic Revolution not taken place, had no fundamental change been made in economic and monetary policies, then, who knows, maybe our country too would have had to face, like any Latin American country, monetary instability and a triple-figure inflation rate. On the basis of the satanic regime's policy, which used to resort to imports to negate inflationary pressure, our people would have had to face multi-billion dollar debts.

As evidence, I wish to make a few points and, as to document the changes the Islamic Revolution has brought about in its economic movements toward establishing independence, cite the negotaitions held in 1978 at one of the meetings of the economic council. In that meeting, they were forecasting foreign currency revenues and expenditures for the subsequent 10 years. They were talking about 1988, 3 years from now. During that meeting, it was said that to run the country the foreign currency expenditure would total $40 billion per year. Even that figure, according to the arch-satan, was considered inadequate.

In connection with this figure, when the question of nonoil exports is raised, the acquired currency from export, minus oil, is predicted at $4 billion maximum. This means that the rest should be acquired either by plundering our oil wells at contemporary prices or through heavy loans from foreign countries, such as the United States or other superpowers.

Fortunately, with the fundamental change brought about in the regulations governing money supply, the banking system, and related policies, the above-mentioned trends have generally been changed so that the growth in cash flow — which is one of the main causes of inflation — during this year was only 6 percent. During the first 5 months of the current year, the corresponding figure is only 4.1 percent. Comparing this figure with the average rate of cash flow growth during the years 1976-78, which was more than 30 percent, is in itself indicative of the fact that the policies adopted have been effective and correct. Another point which is very important in the history of our monetary and banking systems is that the rate of printing money — about 64 percent during 1976-78 — was 7 percent in 1984 and only about 1.8 percent during the first 7 months of the current year. This figure has been unprecedented in the money printing history of our country. The volume of private sector deposits in banks in 1978 dropped by another 2 percent compared with the previous year because of people's lack of confidence in the satanic regime and reached 1,805 billion rials. [figure as heard] But with the restoration of public confidence in the government and the warm reception extended to the new banking laws and increased deposits, the corresponding figure for the current year has gone beyond the 200 billion rial [figure as heard] mark in the current year.

The figures and statistics briefly mentioned are indicative as variables moving in the right direction and more stability in the country's monetary and banking system. Of course, I should point out that the polcies implemented in connection with the yearly budget have played a sensitive role. This was achieved under circumstances in which the Islamic Republic of Iran has spent more than 5 years of its life being involved in the imposed war which would have destructive effects in the economic affairs of any country. In spite of this fact, our country has maintained its economic independence and resilience and even the enemies of the revolution have admitted this point. The government's timely and correct policies have caused the inflation rate — 23.5 percent in 1980 — to drop to 4 percent during the first 5 months of this year. Our brother Mr Nurbakhsh [Governor of the Central Bank ] phoned me yesterday and said that work on the index for the first 6 months of the year has been completed and the figure is about 3.2 percent. At this moment when we are seeking a vote of confidence from the Majlis, we can safely say that if nothing unexpected happens, God willing, we will have a single digit inflation rate for the first time by the end of this year. It should be noted that Iran is one of the most successful countries in the world in controling and keeping down the inflation rate. Considering the government's success in controling the inflation rate, the government intends to continue the policies adopted in this connection and will not allow this economic and social phenomenon to create problems.

With regards to these economic issues, as I have mentioned, there are 10 clauses. I would like to read one of these clauses which might be of interest to the dear deputies. This clause needs an explanation, but as an issue which can be noted and analyzed I would like to bring it to your attention. This issue can influence the fate of all government policies and all bills and drafts debated in the Majlis in the interest of the oppressed people. Moving towards a fair distribution of wealth, figures showing the unfair distribution of wealth in the country for the years 1977, as against the years 1982-1984 indicate a noticable move to benefit the low income groups. Calculations of how much of the national wealth belongs to the top 20 percent of the society, how much of it belongs to the middle 40 percent and how much to the remaining lowest 40 percent of the society have been made using complicated statistical calculations. The change in these proportions can, in fact, be one of the best indications of the direction taken by a regime. After our glorious Islamic revolution, we made a speedy, strong and noticable U-turn towards moderating incomes and reducing the wage differences all over the country, in villages and towns alike. This is the trend. Unfortunately, compared with 1982 this trend has stayed at the same level in 1983 and 1984. That is to say, wage differences have not altered but the speedy way in which unfair wage differences were reduced after the revolution has now settled at a certain level. Therefore, the government deems itself dutybound to implement various policies, especially income policies such as relative coordination of wages in the government and nongovernment sections, controling the share of capital in deciding the value of products, implementing financial policies by taxing on a graduated basis and correct budget allocation policies which reduce wage differences among various groups. Of course, a victorious end to the imposed war would enable the government to continue this policy more strongly.

We have a brief discussion, in connection with this economic section, of our foreign economic policies that shows to what extent the configuration of our foreign relations and economic

exchanges has gone through fundamental change in our relations abroad. Implementing our foreign economic policy based on the slogan "Neither East, nor West," the government's foreign economic policy is oriented towards implementing this slogan in its economy. Therefore, in changing its foreign economic relations, the government has from the beginning stressed exchanges with Muslim and then Third World countries. A brief glance at the share of Western, Muslim and Third World countries in the overall value of the imported goods averaged for the three years prior to the revolution, the years 1975-77, and the year 1984 and the first 6 months of 1985 shows the government's relative success in advancing this strategy. The portion of our country's imports from the West during the 3 years before the revolution was 86 percent. But in the year 1984 this figure was reduced to 72.7 percent and in the first 6 months of 1985 the figure is further reduced to 63 percent. Instead the share of the Muslim and Third World countries which averaged at 2.4 and 6.3 percent respectively for the 3 years prior to the revolution, reached 11.3 and 8.4 percent in the year 1984. The same figures for the first 6 months of the current year are 15.5 and 9.5 percent which show that the trend is upwards.

After our economic discussions, we have elaborated on the internal policies which constitute one of the most important sections of the salient points of government's program and one which has been submitted to the honorable deputies. In this connection the points raised were: maintaining people's presence on the scene, protecting the healthy political atmosphere and the last point, security. In each of these points there are other issues, for instance in the point about maintaining people's presence we have the issue of taking steps in various sections of the society to keep people politically involved. The issue of national unity has been mentioned in this connection as well. The importance of the religious institution and its role in the country's independence, in guarding the country and guarding the revolution has also been noted. The government's need for the help and support of the clergy and the leadership of the clergy, the issue of unity between Shi'ites and Sunnis and eliminating discrimination in areas have been pointed out as well. There is a brief clause about a healthy political atmosphere which I would like to recite to the honorable deputies since it is very short: As a further step, the government is intent on maintaining the healthy political atmosphere of the country. For this purpose the following points are notable:

A. Friday prayers are of the most effective means of maintaining the political well-being of the country and raising the political awareness of the people. In its new term of office the government will try to establish an even closer tie with this institution.

B. Just as previously announced in various contexts, the incumbent government considers its acceptance of criticism as a means of protecting the healthy political atmosphere of the country. The government does not take the opposition of persons or political trends against itself as a sign of their lack of honesty as long as these oppositions do not originate from anti-Islamic Republic feelings. In dealing with its opposition, the government takes the line of explaining the vague points and accepting justified and encouraging criticisms which when taken into account would benefit the country. Of course this policy has been implemented by the government in the past as well.

D. [as heard] The government's dealings with forces following the line of the imam will be with modesty. The government, when dealing with Muslim groups committed to the revolution will try to give credibility to the main slogans of the Islamic revolution and regulate its relations with each group according to that group's emphasis on ideological and true slogans. The government's vision and its domain of action should go beyond those motivated by political inclinations and should encompass the whole of cultural and political geography of this great nation of ours. Priority should be given to a longstanding revolutionary and a combatant who goes to war against oppression seeking justice and who takes his life in his hands for Islam because that revolutionary is using his experience as a tool to serve and fulfill his ideals and not because he expects this priority in return for his past deeds.

Then we have a section in connection with the issue of security, where strengthening the country's information system has been mentioned along with decisively dealing with warring minigroups, which will continue as before. There is also a reference to issues in connection with Kordestan and western Azarbayjan where during the past 4 years these minigroups have sustained blows from our Muslim Kurds and have been dispersed. The government policy in the future will be to crush any armed movement and to keep the doors of repentence open for the return of the repentant persons.

Now we come to the section on foreign policy and cultural policy. Since I mentioned the point at the beginning of my speech, I will not read it. God willing, the brothers and sisters will study this section themselves. But there is a clause at the end of this list of salient points of the government's future programs and then I will proceed to introduce the honorable ministers

Finally, I consider it necessary to point out that the government, in its new term of office, will not succeed in carrying out the grave duties delegated to it without the support and guidance of the leader of the revolution, the alert nation, the struggling clergy, the revolutionary Majlis deputies, esteemed thinkers in the executive and political organizations of the country and all those who feel strongly about the revolution. I am sure that all the revoluitonary and caring forces of the country assess the problems and difficulties of the country with utmost realism and realize the capabilities of the government. If there are those who ask us to perform miracles we say to them that it is the people present on the scenes, the selfless combatants and millions-strong Muslim groups of our people who perform miracles. Our capital in this arena is our effort. We promise to do our best to protect the ideas of the Islamic revolution. If we succeed in doing so we have managed to do what God wanted us to do and not more. I pray to Almighty God to grant success to all his servants in carrying out their duties.

As for the ministers, we have submitted 24 names to the Majlis, as I have already mentioned to the esteemed deputies. If we devote time to discuss every one of them individually we will naturally take up the time needed for the brothers who want to debate the matter or criticize towards the end of this statement, so I shall deal with the matter briefly. There are a number of people in the cabinet who have been there before; so I shall not discuss those. I shall briefly say something about the background

of the new faces in the cabinet; their biography has already been provided, and I am confident that the esteemed brother deputies have adequately investigated the background of each of them.

There is first brother Mohtashami as interior minister. I shall briefly mention the fact that I have been closely familiar with our brother Mohtashami's intelligent, strong and revolutionary activities over the past 4 years, including in the Foreign Ministry under Martyr Raja'i. His activities have been reported to me through a number of channels. He was played a conspicuous role in all the developments that have been brought about in our relations with Syria, as well as issues concerning Lebanon. The committed forces in the region, the Muslim, militant, Hizballah forces in Lebanon are the best testimony about this matter. It was not without reason that international Zionism planted a bomb in his room in an attempted assassination. That was because of his powerful, fruitful, conspicuous, and destiny-making activities. He has approached our issues with Syria and Lebanon with absolute resolution. I should like, in particular, to draw the brothers' attention to the diversity and complexity of political factions in Lebanon — the complexity of the region, the complexity of the Palestine issue. Whenever a pattern of activity developed in that region by the Foreign Ministry and by our brother Mohtashami as our agent, as someone closely involved in the area, we did not feel as hopeful about the problems in that region as we do not [as heard]. Throughout our brother has adopted the best approaches and most revolutionary stances; he has won the confidence of the great Muslim forces there. I cannot go into too much detail about that here. Suffice it to say that we only have a superficial appreciation of the committed people in the region — in Lebanon -- and it should be said here that extensive efforts have been made in this connection and our brother Mohtashami has played a major role in that regard.

As surely all the deputies realize, the interior minister could play a major role, if he happens to be a cleric, in terms of his contacts with the Friday imams and the clergy who are the mainstay of our revolution. The imam's favor towards an individual can solve many problems, I believe. One's revolutionary and militant record can play a fundamental role in this regard. The sensitivity of matters to do with intelligence, security and politics is of great importance — a fundamental asset for anyone as interior minister. This attributed applies to our brother Mohatashami. Obviously the esteemed deputies have looked into this matter; they have certainly investigated the matter and will comment on it in due course, god willing. We have seen a great deal of ability from him during the period [not further specified].

There is our brother Col Jalali whom I came to know well after the Khaybar operations and through the esteemed Majlis speaker who has described his dedication, self-sacrifice and devotion. Jalali has shown his dedication and selflessness at critical moments. This has also been mentioned even by brothers on the Majlis Defense Committee, they have found him to be knowledgeable about military matters, sympathetic to the armed forces of the Islamic Republic and familiar with various issues involving the Defense Ministry. In our contacts he has shown full appreciation of the great domain concerning defense matters, as well as arms purchases and other matters. I remember that I also said something about him at the Tuesday session of the Majlis.

There is our brother Mas'ud Zanjani as minister of plan and budget, one of the important ministries of the country. If I cite two instances about him I think it will be sufficient. This year was a tough one for the government in terms of revenue. The esteemed deputies are certainly familiar with the matter. Of course, the government adopted a decision which was perhaps an unprecedented executive decision concerning an annual budget, namely cutting some 40 billion tumans [figure as heard] from expenditure. As you know, the media will devote a great deal of attention to cuts, even small expenditure, cuts on the order of $1 billion or $500 million, even when it concerns big countries. However, the country's management was strong enough to make economies of that order because of a reduction in government revenues. At the same time those economies were carried out with very little or no tension or difficulties or adverse reaction, despite the natural pressures on state bodies. Well, this could be described as one of the positive features of the Plan and Budget Ministry; the Plan and Budget Ministry could play a most important role in such circumstances — in difficult circumstances, in matters to do with preparations for the war, matters to do with exchange and rial revenues and such matters of which the esteemed deputies are aware and the details and figures of which I cannot discuss here be because of their strategic aspects.

As a rule, the minister of plan and budget — and the head of the plan and budget organization in the past — has a problem with various bodies and esteemed ministers, for the Ministry of Plan and Budget is accountable, has to watch every penny, as it were, keep account of everything, be parsimonious. But other bodies seek greater and greater financial resources to spend. For this reason, there is always a natural tension between the Ministry of Plan and Budget and other ministries. One of the skills required from a good minister of plan and budget is to reduce that tension to a minimum. Our brother Zanjani has had the best of relations with other bodies while implementing the economies and tight-fistedness needed.

Another thing about brother Zanjani concerns his reliance on committed and Hezbollahi forces; we are confident that with him in that position, committed forces would cooperate.

There is also our brother Aqazadeh as oil minister. Of course, he is more familiar to the first Majlis than the second because in the second Majlis, when he was a minister of state for executive affairs, he was in fact no longer acting in that capacity based on the views of Council of Guardiana and the Majlis decision [as heard]. So he might have had less contact with the Majlis. He is one of the strongest executive managers of the country; he has played a crucial role in economic matters, in coordinating matters between ministries — one of the most fundamental roles of the Office of Prime Minister. All the state bodies affirm this. He is the one who would be able to resolve issues, whenever we have a problem, and bring about coordination between even 10 or more different bodies; he is also able to carry out urgent tasks, in addition to what he has been doing in the office of Prime Minister. Furthermore, over the past 2 years, since last year in particular, he has played a crucial and conspicuous role in connection with our various oil policies and our purchases and imports in exchange for oil. I think he would be able to have a sound and firm approach in the Oil Ministry in the context of the ministry's importance relating to foreign exchange revenues and

its relations with various economic sectors. In addition, he can make a contribution in the industrial sectors, as he was involved in industrial matters before the revolution and is familiar with matters of that kind.

There is brother Dr Farhadi as minister of culture and higher education. He is a familiar university figure and supported by Hezbollahi and strong and revolutionary forces in universities. He was appointed Tehran University chancellor, and while he was chancellor we had no problems in that university: Naturally, with reliance upon Hezbollah forces and with his commitment to the university jihad he has accepted the present appointment because he is supported by those forces. He will also have the difficult job of implementing the health and treatment legislation in the new ministry which cannot carry out that legislation without the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. It is necessary here to mention both our brother Dr Qader and other brothers in connection with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. Over the past 3 months Farhadi has been saying he would like to go back to academic work because of his sincerity and devotion; like our other brothers, such as Ghafuri and Nasekh and other dear brothers, he has continued his government service to make it possible to bring about this change [not further specified]

There is our brother Sa'id-Kiya as one of the brother Hezbollahis in the Roads Ministry. Connected with the vast committed and devoted forces in the Roads Ministry, he is one of the figures stemming from the revolution. He has characteristics we have seen in Martyr Kalantari in terms of decisiveness and in getting committed forces to work. His biography has been circulated. Esteemed deputies are naturally familiar with the work he has done in various posts. We are confident that with a cursory attention to the way he has been doing his job and based on his values the deputies will look at the appointment favorably so that the Roads Ministry will do its job strongly, God willing.

There is our brother Banki as energy minister. As I have mentioned, those who were in the first Majlis are familiar with him, particularly from the Plan and Budget Committees. They are familiar with his ability, creativeness and strength. He is also one of the strong executive managers of the country; He has shown his ability in the plan and budget organisation at a time when there virtually was no such organization before he started work there. He has also played a major role in preparing budgets under wartime conditions, in economic development planning, and many other important economic matters. He has played a major role in our economic conditions today, which might have some deficiencies but which, I believe, have many strong points. His expertise is such that he can make a major contribution to the Energy Ministry, both as a road and construction engineer and as one having a doctorate in building firms; he will be able to make that contribution also in matters dealing with water and power work as well as organizational jobs in the Energy Ministry, which is one of the strongest organizations in the country.

Our dear brother Engineer Gharazi is too well known to the Majlis to need introduction. We are sure he would be able to administer the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Ministry with strength and so make a major contribution in serving our oppressed people.

I did not refer to the brothers' revolutionary backgrounds because their biography has been provided and we hope that the brothers have studied them. So I leave most the remaining time, 1 or 2 hours, following the speeches for and against the esteemed brothers, for the ministers themselves to speak, God willing, and so that I might say a word or two addressed to the brothers and sisters, time permitting. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

## Majlis Approves All But 2 Proposed Cabinet Members

*LD281418 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — Iran's Majlis approved Monday 22 members of the new cabinet but refused to give the necessary 130 votes to Hoseyn Namazi as the minister of economy and finance or Hoseyn Nili Ahmadabadi as the minister of mines and metals.

In all, 258 Majlis deputies participated in the voting. Hasan Habibi received the highest vote with 243 votes.

Seven new faces are in the cabinet while Mohammad Gharazi, the former minister of oil will run the ministry of post, telegraph and telephone in the new cabinet.

Ministers of road, defence, culture, budget, interior and energy are new. Here is vote of the Majlis for the new cabinet:

Education, Kazem Akrami : 192 votes
Post, telegraph and telephone, Mohammad Gharazi : 214 votes
Ershad Eslami [Islamic Guidance] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami : 221 votes
Health, 'Ali Reza Marandi : 144 votes
Construction Jihad, Bizhan Namdar Zanganeh : 217 votes
Housing, Serajeddin Kazeruni, : 202 votes
Oil, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh : 146 votes
Defence, Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali : 195 votes
Labor, Abdol Qasem Sarhadizadeh : 176 votes
Foreign Affairs, 'Ali Akbar Velayati : 210 votes
Information, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Rayshahri : 233 votes
Commerce, Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari : 167 votes
Plan and Budget, Mas'ud Zanjani-Raghani : 144 votes
Justice, Hasan Habibi : 241 votes
Roads and Transportation, Mohammad Seyyed Kiya : 170 votes
Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust : 183 votes
Industries, Gholam Reza Shafie : 161 votes
Heavy industries, Behzad Nabavi : 159 votes
Culture and Higher Education, Mohammad Farhadi : 217 votes
Agriculture, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali : 163 votes
Interior, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi : 163 votes
Energy, Mohammad Taqi Banki : 165 votes
Mines and Metals, Hoseyn Nili Ahmadabadi : 126 votes
Economy and Finance, Hoseyn Namazi : 115 votes

Announcing the results of the voting, Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the prime minister and the president will nominate two new candidates for the ministries of mines and economy.

He said that negative votes should not be used as political tools against any of the candidates.

Rafsanjani thanked the Majlis for its speed in debating and voting in the new cabinet. The leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni had urged the Majlis for a quick debate on the cabinet after the prime minister was given a vote of confidence on 4 October.

Prime Minister Huseyn Musavi also spoke briefly after the results and expressed the hope that the president and the Majlis will cooperate with the new cabinet.

He said the cabinet will work towards "implementing the ideals of the combatants who are sacrificing their lives" in war against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

He emphasised the role of Majlis as the legislative branch of the government and said he would have accepted its decision on the proposed cabinet.

The new cabinet is expected to follow policies in support of the low income classes and an active foreign policy in backing the five-year-old imposed Iraqi war.

Earlier, students organizations and several Islamic Association of Workers had supported Musavi.

### New Ministers Brief Majlis

*LD291011 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, oct. 29, IRNA — The Majlis (Parliament) Monday [28 October] approved nomination of 22 out of the 24 ministers suggested by prime minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

One of the controversial nominees was the minister of oil, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who received 146 affirmative and 65 negative votes out of the 258 deputies present. 47 of the deputies abstained.

Prior to the casting of the vote, he briefed the Majlis on his plans for the Ministry of Oil and answered to those deputies who had spoken against his candidacy.

On oil sale policy, he said that for the past one and a half year, oil sale has dropped. He rejected allegations that he was in favour of an open door policy in terms of oil sale. "I will function within Majlis approvals," he assured the deputies.

He said that measures should be adopted so that major exporters should be obliged to purchase Iranian oil in return for goods Iran imports from these countries. Implementation of this measure, he added, has already led to satisfactory results. "Our point is that", he added, "if we are buying goods from you, you must purchase our oil so that a balance could be established in our foreign trade."

Further in his speech he said that he will strive towards further consolidation of OPEC. He also stressed importance of utilising services of committed forces at his ministry and diversifying oil export resources.

Another newcomer is Minister of Interior, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, ex-Iranian ambassador to Damascus, whose candidacy was approved by 163 votes. Meanwhile, 32 Deputies voted against and 63 abstained.

He addressed the Majlis on his activities in Lebanon and Syria and assassination attempt on his life. Citing his plans for the ministry, he stressed close cooperation with Majlis and full coordination with judicial system.

Meanwhile, the prime minister addressed the Majlis on qualifications of his suggested ministers before the deputies cast their votes on each candidate. He urged the Majlis to see both the achievements and shortcomings in their evaluation so that a better use will be made of the committed forces.

In another part of his speech he reiterated close working relations between the government and the Majlis. The objective is to serve the nation in the best possible manner, he told the deputies.

### Khamene'i Discusses War, Alignment Policy

*LD282017 Tehran IRNA in English 1927 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] TEHRAN, Oct. 28, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the establishment and expansion of relations with all but a select few of the world countries.

Speaking to a group of Iranian ambassadors and charges d'affaires to Arab as well as African countries, Khamene'i said that Iraq's blind air raids against khark Island had not affected Iran's oil exports. He said Iran is capable of increasing its oil exports any time it so chooses.

Khamene'i said the superpowers backing Iraq's aggression thought that Iran was totally vulnerable and dependent on its oil exports from Khark Island, and that if they were seriously affected Iran would kneel down and submit to an Iraqi imposed peace engineered by the aggressive world powers.

Iraq, too, had been led to believe that Achille's heel was Iran's oil exports from the Khark terminal, the president said.

Khamene'i said that it was not unlikely that an Iraqi missile hit an oil pipe, temporarily putting it out of operation, however, the world grudgingly accepted the fact that Iraqi claims on destroying the Khark terminal was mere sensationalism, the president added.

On global propaganda against Islamic iran, the president said that although they try to portray the Islamic Republic as being "unstable" the steadfastness of the resistant muslim nation

ensures the stability of the government and country thereby belying such fanciful imaginings of the world oppressors.

President Khamene'i told the envoys that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic should be unambiguous, thereby leaving no room for the enemies and the Zionist-controlled mass media to take advantage of any vagueness. He said it was the responsibility of the diplomats to clarify and pursue such aims.

The president mentioned the alignment of countries into blocks and said the Islamic Government should decide what new alignment it can create in the world today.

He said Iran cannot ignore the peoples of the Muslim countries even though the Islamic government may not have diplomatic relations with their governments.

### IRNA Reports Increase in Oil Refineries Output

*LD281802 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA — An average of 737,153 barrels of crude oil per day was refined by the country's refineries between September 23 and October 20, 32.8 percent more than the nominal capacity of the refineries, said the Iranian Oil Ministry Monday. The increase was the result of sound operation of various refineries which produced between 14.8 up to 60 percent more than their designed capacity. A daily average of 94.6 million litres of kerosine, gas oil, fuel oil, and gasoline are distributed in the internal markets.

### AFP: 200 Political Prisoners Said Executed in Oct

*AU281315 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 2 8 Oct 85*

[Text] Paris, Oct 28 (AFP) — Two hundred political prisoners were executed in Iran this month, according to a communique issued here today by the Islmatic left movement People's Mojahedin-e Khalq. The movement, banned in Iran, said that most of the executions were carried out at the beginning of October in Evin prison, Tehran, and Gohar-Dacht prison, in Karaj, west of the capital.

The movement, headed by exiled leader Mas'ud Rajavi, said in the communique that "at least 120 bodies of political prisoners in Evin prison were buried on Oct. 5 in the cemetery at Behecht-Zara." It added: "Sixty political prisoners were shot by firing squads in Gohar-Dacht prison at the beginning of October." The movement said that two former political prisoners who had escaped from prison in Iran would hold a press conference in Paris on Thursday.

### Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

#### Communique No 2,272

*LD281903 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA — More than 30 Iraqi troops were killed and 100 others wounded in the course of a single limited offensive launched by Iran's Muslim combatants in Marivan a few days ago, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Monday.

In its Communique Number 2272, the command added that the Iranian fighters also seized five light weapons and a communication set of the enemy.

Elsewhere in western fronts, the command said, more than 25 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and several bunkers together with a munitions depot of the enemy was destroyed during an artillery duel with Iranian forces over the past 24 hours.

Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions in northwestern fronts Sunday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops, destroying several bunkers and exploding one munitions depot of Iraqi forces, the communique said.

The communique added that Iran's ground and gendarmerie combatants opened fire on Iraqi positions and command outposts in the southern fronts over the past 24 hours, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy.

The enemy's long-range artillery fire hit the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr over the past 24 hours, causing damage to two buildings in Abadan, the communique concluded.

#### Iraqi Counterattack 'Crushed'

*LD290655 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct. 29, IRNA — An Iraqi counter-attack to retake outposts in west of Umm al-Na'aj Lake, taken by the Iranian forces in the recent "Ashura-4" offensive, was crushed Monday.

Following Iraq's severe defeat in north of Hawr al-Huwayzah, west of Ahvaz last Monday, the Iraqi commando units embarked on a counter-attack in the same area which was repelled by the Iranian combants.

Iraqi commanders of operational theater in Eastern Tigris are said to have been against such a counter-attack and had referred to it as "suicidal".

Meanwhile, reports from Iraq said that the commander of the Brigade 117 of the Iraqi corps destroyed by the Iranian forces in "Ashura-4" offensive, has been summoned to Baghdad and commanders of the brigade's battalions have all been arrested.

After the brigade was smashed, its commanders refused to embark on any attack and opened fire on the brigade's security agents.